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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/502,816 02/11/00 LANYI

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PM82/0102

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EXAMINER

SOTELO, J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3617
DATE MAILED:

01/02/01

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/502,816

Applicant(s)

LANYI ET AL.

Examiner

Jesús D. Sotelo

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-8, 10-14 and 16-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 9 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-14, 16, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krautkremer et al in view of North.

Krautkremer discloses a method and apparatus for maneuvering a marine vessel comprising the steps of providing first and second marine propulsion units; receiving a maneuver command from a manually controllable device and apparatus for calculating the magnitude of thrust as a function of the maneuvering command. Although Krautkremer teaches that the propulsion units can be mounted in front or behind the center of lateral resistance, Krautkremer does not teach the mounting of the propulsion units attachable to the transom. North discloses an arrangement of propulsion units mounted on the transom and used for propulsion of the watercraft and also for maneuvering the watercraft. In view of these disclosures it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to mount the propulsion units of the arrangement in Krautkremer on the transom of the watercraft in an arrangement generally as taught by North.

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The use of outboard motors in lieu of stern drives would have been an obvious extension of the teachings of North.

4. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krautkremer in view of North as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Ito et al.

Ito et al discloses an apparatus for controlling multiple engines for maneuvering a ship, wherein the apparatus includes a joystick and a microprocessor.

In view of these disclosures, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use a joystick and microprocessor to control the propulsion units, generally as taught by Ito et al.

The use of a microprocessor and electronic circuits would have been desirable in the arrangement of Krautkremer to simplify the controls.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 4, 9, and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

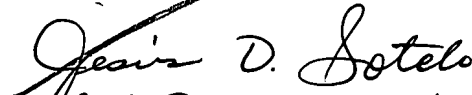
Rieben is cited as showing apparatus and method for maneuvering a marine craft including the use of a joystick.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jesús D. Sotelo whose telephone number is 703-308-2563. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 6:30 AM -3:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samuel J. Morano can be reached on 703-308-0230. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3597 for regular communications and 703-305-3597 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.


Jesus D. Sotelo 12/29/00
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3617
CPK 5-6D16 ☺

December 29, 2000